

# Reuse • Recycle • Conserve

City of Kirkland Public Works Department



## WATCH FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Collection Event  
October 3<sup>rd</sup>

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Visit us at [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle)

## Just Mulch It!

As the growing season comes to an end, now is the optimal time for mulching your planting beds. Mulch applied in autumn will help to keep soil temperatures warm through the winter and provide nutrients for the next growing season.

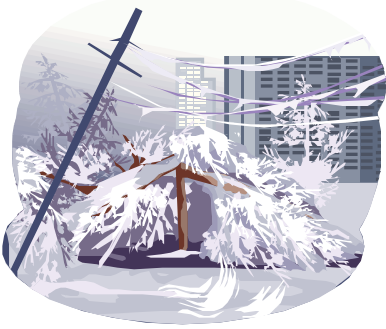
Mulch is any material placed on the soil surface to limit weed growth, reduce evaporation, increase or decrease soil temperature, and limit soil compaction. Materials such as wood chips, grass clippings, leaves, newspapers, cardboard, or compost can be especially beneficial because they add nutrients to the soil as they decompose.

Mulch should be applied evenly around trees, shrubs and perennials, up to four inches deep. For trees or shrubs in the lawn, it should be spread in three to six-foot rings extending out from the base. For planting beds, cover the entire surface. Keep mulch about one inch away from plant stems and trunks to prevent rot and pest damage. It should never be piled against the trunk or over the top of a plant.

One cubic foot of mulch covers 12 square feet one inch deep. One cubic yard will cover 324 square feet one inch deep. To figure out how much mulch you need for your yard, see this simple online calculator: [www.savingwater.org/outside\\_compostcalc.htm](http://www.savingwater.org/outside_compostcalc.htm).



# Inclement Weather and Holiday Collection Policies



**Who** could forget last year's snow storm that packed a punch and impacted garbage collection service? The City contracts with Waste Management to provide garbage and recycling collection services and Waste Management determines when service is cancelled due to unsafe weather conditions.

If inclement weather such as snow and ice prevents the safe collection of your garbage and recycling, a double load of garbage, recycling, and yard waste will be picked up on your next regular collection day. Since a double load is collected, no credits will be issued for the missed service day. Please remove your carts from the street or sidewalk and store any extra garbage and recycling until your next regular service day. For up-to-date information on weather delays and tips on managing extra garbage and recycling, go to [www.wmnorthwest.com/weatherboard](http://www.wmnorthwest.com/weatherboard).

A holiday note... Waste Management observes three holidays each year: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. If your regular collection day falls on one of these three holidays, your service day for that week will be adjusted forward by one day. For instance, if your collection day falls on Thanksgiving Day (Thurs), your service day for that week will be adjusted to Friday. Customers with regular service on Friday will receive service on Saturday.

## Battery Recycling

**We** want you to get charged up about battery recycling. Bring your batteries to any of the collection sites below:

- City Hall - 123 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- North Kirkland Community Center - 12421 103<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NE
- Peter Kirk Community Center – 352 Kirkland Ave.
- Parks Office – 505 Market St.
- Public Works Maintenance Center – 915 8<sup>th</sup> St.

### Rechargeable Batteries

Consider making the switch to rechargeable batteries. While single-use batteries can only be used once, rechargeable batteries can be reused up to 1,000 times. Rechargeables are a great option for your wallet and the environment. You can save money and create less waste by replacing your single-use batteries with rechargeables.



*Recent changes at the Federal level now require that batteries collected for recycling be packaged individually in plastic bags or have both terminals (+ and -) covered with tape, in order to prevent short-circuiting and fire.*

# Super Scoopers

More than 12,000 dogs, of all shapes and sizes, call Kirkland their home. That's a lot of dogs and a lot of dog waste - more than 730 TONS of waste per year! Many pet owners don't realize that the little piles of waste left on the ground by dogs can add up to big problems for people, animals, and water. This waste is essentially raw sewage that can affect public health and water quality. That means it's up to each individual dog owner to take responsibility for his/her dog's waste. Scoop the poop, bag it and put it in the trash!



Take the Super Scooper Pledge for clean yards, parks & streams at [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/petwaste](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/petwaste) and we'll send you a FREE pet waste bag dispenser for you and your pooch!

## Try These Tips to Make Every Drop of Water Count

Every drop counts when it comes to water conservation.  
At home...

1. Use the same glass for water throughout the day instead of putting it directly into the dishwasher after each use. This cuts down on the glasses to be washed.
2. Water plants in creative ways: use melted ice from a cup, water from cooking noodles or vegetables, or the water from your hot water faucet while waiting for it to warm up.
3. Reuse the water from boiling vegetables to start a vegetable stock for a soup.
4. Consider buying organic produce because it uses a lot less water to grow.
5. Insulate your water pipes. It's easy and inexpensive to insulate your water pipes with pre-slit foam pipe insulation. You'll get hot water faster plus avoid wasting water while it heats up.

Out and about...

1. Patronize businesses which practice and promote water conservation. Visit [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/kirklandgreen](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/kirklandgreen) for local "green" businesses.
2. Only order water in restaurants if you really want it. It is estimated that every glass of water served at a restaurant requires another two glasses to wash and rinse it.
3. Wash your car at a commercial car wash. You help to protect the environment because the soapy water is treated before it reaches local waterways.

# Puget Sound Starts Here

Puget Sound starts here. "Here" is where each of us lives. It's our backyards, our driveways, our neighborhoods and our homes. But what we do here has a serious impact on our local waterways and ultimately on Puget Sound.

Our actions pollute local waterways with yard chemicals, oil, grease, soap, and bacteria from pet waste and septic systems. When rainwater runoff flows over the ground, it picks up these pollutants. This contaminated water goes down storm drains, emptying directly into creeks, rivers, and lakes, eventually ending up in Puget Sound.

The City is supporting the education and outreach efforts of "Puget Sound Starts Here," a regional effort to help Puget Sound. By changing a few of your daily habits, you can become part of the solution. Together, we can help save Puget Sound.



Here are a few things to get you started:

- In your yard, use chemicals sparingly or not at all.
- Take your car to a commercial car wash and have oil leaks fixed.
- Pick up dog poop, bag it, and put it in the trash (not in the yard waste bin or compost).

For more ideas and tips, visit [www.pugetsoundstartshere.org](http://www.pugetsoundstartshere.org).

## Want to Volunteer?

Many environmental stewardship opportunities are available with the City of Kirkland. Go to [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us) and enter "Kirkland Volunteer Opportunities" in the search box to find a complete listing of opportunities.



## Comments

The City of Kirkland would like to hear your comments about this newsletter or your suggestions for future issues. Please call (425) 587-3907 or email [vlock@ci.kirkland.wa.us](mailto:vlock@ci.kirkland.wa.us).



# Adopt-a-Storm-Drain

The fiery reds, oranges and yellows of autumn leaves are beautiful, but, as they fall from the trees, leaves can block storm drain grates which cause local flooding. With over 9,500 storm drains throughout Kirkland, the Public Works Department needs your help to keep streets safe and clear and to reduce property damage caused by flooding. Cleaning dirt, litter and leaves from the tops of drains helps prevent flooding and keeps pollutants out of our creeks and lakes.

You can help by adopting a storm drain near your home or business and doing the following:

- Frequently checking storm drain grates and the surrounding area and keeping them clear of leaves and other debris.
- Keep the grate closed. Do NOT remove the grate as this does not unclog the system and it creates a hazard for everyone.
- Use a rake to remove leaves and garbage from the storm drain opening and gutter and place the material in a yard waste, trash, or recycling container.

Join the many Kirkland residents and businesses who have volunteered to keep neighborhood drains free of leaves and litter. Adopt your neighborhood storm drain(s) and, after signing a simple agreement, receive a free reusable yard waste bag.

For more information or to download the agreement, visit [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us) and type "storm drains" in the search box or call Public Works at (425) 587-3800.



## Please Practice Cart Courtesy



Each year, City of Kirkland Solid Waste staff responds to numerous complaints about garbage and recycling carts left out in the street or on the sidewalk. Not only do these carts detract from the aesthetics of our neighborhoods, they present a real hazard and unnecessary obstacle to pedestrians.

Please try to observe the following guidelines:

- To expedite automated collection, carts should be set out facing the street, two feet apart, and within five feet of the road surface.
  - Try to avoid placing your carts on the sidewalk unless no other suitable location exists.
- As a courtesy to your neighbors and pedestrians, carts should be set out no earlier than the night before your regular service day and should be removed from the City right-of-way (street, sidewalk, or shoulder) by the end of the service day.

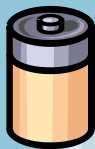
## Kirkland Green E-Updates

Got email? Get great information on everything "green" by subscribing to Kirkland Green E-Updates! Visit [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us) and click on the Kirkland Email Alerts icon.

Kirkland E-Mail Alerts



### Kirkland Residents: Did You Know?



Rechargeable batteries can be recharged and reused up to 1,000 times. Hundreds of single-use batteries would be needed to equal that lifespan.

Rechargeable batteries are a better choice for the environment...  
*and your wallet!*



## Recycling Collection Event

**PRESENTED BY:** City of Kirkland & King County  
**WHAT:** Residential Collection Event  
**WHERE:** Houghton Park & Ride (NE 70<sup>th</sup> St. & 116<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE)  
**WHEN:** Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 AM to 3 PM

Safely recycle items that normally cannot be recycled at the curb or recycled readily through product stewardship programs. We'll gladly accept tires, motor oil, batteries, clothing, porcelain toilets and sinks, electronic equipment and computer peripherals, appliances and scrap metal.

Important note!!! Due to the overwhelming success and convenience of the new E-Cycle Washington Program, we will no longer accept televisions, desktop and laptop computers, and computer monitors at our Kirkland Recycling Collection Events. We will still continue to accept all other electronic devices at our events: cell phones, printers, scanners, fax machines, mice, and keyboards. For more information on the E-Cycle Washington Program or to find a convenient free collection site near you, visit our Free Electronics Recycling webpage at [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle).



Single family (house) residents can still recycle all their electronics items at the curb year-round. Call Waste Management Customer Service at (800) 592-9995 at least one day before your regular garbage day or schedule the service on-line at [www.wmnorthwest.com/kirkland](http://www.wmnorthwest.com/kirkland).

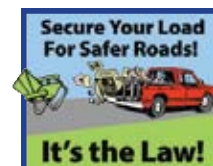


### Fluorescent tubes and bulbs can be recycled at this event! (limit 10 tubes/bulbs per person)

#### Some fees do apply (cash only):

- Porcelain toilets/sinks - \$5 each
- Propane tanks (empty, residential only) - \$5 each
- Small camping propane tanks (empty) - \$5 each
- Water heater with insulation coating - \$5/each
- Refrigerators/freezers/household air conditioners - \$25 each

For tips on securing your load, please go to [www.kingcounty.gov](http://www.kingcounty.gov) and search: "secure your load" or call the King County Solid Waste Division at (206) 296-4466.



\*Restrictions apply and some items are not collected. User fees cover the cost of proper processing and recycling. All items collected will be recycled. View the flyer at [www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle](http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle) or call the Recycling Hotline at (425) 587-3812 for more information.

Funding provided by the King County Solid Waste Division, King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, and the Washington State Department of Ecology.